

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 17-19 and 21-28 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 7, 17-19, 21-24, 27 and 28 are in independent form. Claim 7 has been amended to remove a comma. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In response to the Advisory Action mailed January 15, 2004 and the Office Action mailed September 23, 2003, please consider the following remarks.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claim 17.

Claims 1-4, 7-11, 18, 19 and 21-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,720,014 (*Ikeda et al.*).

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is a data communication system. The data communication system includes a connector, an operation input unit, a data transmitter, and a notification unit. The connector connects a network that is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals to the data communication system. The operation input unit receives a manual designation from an operator. The data transmitter transmits a document, based on the designation input by the operation input unit, to an external data communication terminal via a line that does not include the connector. The notification unit, notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter. The notification unit notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information in accordance with a change in state of the data communication system, and also notifies the data processing terminal of the transmission result information related to the document

transmission upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data transmitter. In the case where user information is input by the operation input unit with an address of the external data communication terminal, the notification unit notifies a data processing terminal corresponding to the user information of the transmission result information.

One important feature of Claim 1 is that the data communication system notifies a data processing terminal, via the connector, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter.

Ikeda et al. relates to an image processing apparatus that can be connected to an information processing terminal. The image processing apparatus comprises interface means for exchanging data with an external information processing terminal, instruction receipt means for receiving an instruction via the interface means from the terminal, and control means for controlling various processes, such as communication, image recording, and image reading, in consonance with the instruction received by the instruction receipt means.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that Claim 1 is not clear and does not specifically require a physical notification which includes both transmission result information and the transmitted document.

Applicant respectfully points out that Claim 1 states that the notification includes transmission result information, representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and

the document transmitted by the data transmitter. That is, the data processing terminal is notified of the transmission result and the document simultaneously. Accordingly, confirmation of the transmitted document is enabled at the same time when receiving the transmission result information.

In the Office Action mailed September 23, 2003, and the Advisory Action mailed January 15, 2003, *Ikeda et al.*'s Communication Management Function and File Management Function together are said to correspond to the notification function recited in Claim 1. As discussed in the Request For Reconsideration dated December 16, 2003, these two functions, even in combination, do not in fact meet the terms of the recitation of the notification function in Claim 1. While the Communication Management Function does provide notification procedures, these procedures merely concern acquisition of communication result information for a designated service ID or a request for a service ID. Neither of these procedures provides a document transmitted by a data transmitter.

On the other hand, the File Management Function involves the management of stored image data based on file management commands, such as a file data acquisition command. However, the retrieval of a data file is performed in response to the file data acquisition command, rather than as part of a transmission result notification performed upon completion of document transmission. Indeed, it is clear from Figs. 27 and 29 that the notification procedure of the Communication Management Function is entirely separate from the file acquisition procedure of the File Management Function. That is, the retrieval of a data file in the File Management Function is not performed together with the notification procedure of the Communication Management Function in *Ikeda et al.*

Applicant submits that nothing in *Ikeda et al.* would suggest that, upon the completion of document transmission, a notification occurs that includes both the transmission result information and the transmitted document, in the manner recited in Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that nothing in *Ikeda et al.* would teach or suggest notifying a data processing terminal upon completion of the document transmission performed by the data transmitter, where the notification includes transmission result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation inputted by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter, as recited in Claim 1.

Accordingly, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable over *Ikeda et al.*

Independent Claims 7, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, and 28 include similar features to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 7, 18, 19, 21-24, 27, and 28 are also believed to be patentable for reasons substantially similar as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

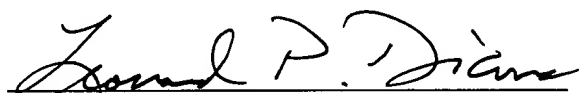
The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, and the reasons for patentability set forth in the Request For Reconsideration dated December 16, 2003, Applicant believes that Claims 1-4, 7-11, 18, 19 and 21-28 are patentable over the cited prior art.

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard P. Diana", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant

Leonard P. Diana

Registration No.: 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200